

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

## PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

### WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing  
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference  
see form PCT/ISA/220

**FOR FURTHER ACTION**  
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.  
PCT/ZA2004/000068

International filing date (day/month/year)  
21.07.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)  
20.06.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC  
A45D8/12, A45D8/36

Applicant  
GLADWIN, Thea

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☒ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

#### 2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 56.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office  
D-80298 Munich  
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523855 epmu d  
Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Authorized Officer

Acerbis, G

Telephone No. +49 89 2399-6895



**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**International application No.  
PCT/ZA2004/000068

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**Box No. I Basis of the opinion**

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1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
  - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
  - a. type of material:
    - ☐ a sequence listing
    - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
  - b. format of material:
    - ☐ in written format
    - ☐ in computer readable form
  - c. time of filing/furnishing:
    - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
    - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
    - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.  
PCT/ZA2004/000068

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**Box No. II Priority**

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1. ☒ The following document has not been furnished:

☒ copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(a)).

☐ translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(b)).

Consequently it has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.

2. ☐ This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43bis.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.

3. Additional observations, if necessary:

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**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(I) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

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1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	9-11
	No: Claims	1-8
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	9-11
	No: Claims	1-8
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-11
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**Re Item V.**

- 1 The following document is referred to in this communication:  
D1 : US 6 123 086 A (KUGLEN FRANCESCA B) 26 September 2000 (2000-09-26)
- 2 **INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1**
  - 2.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT. Document D1 (column 2 lines 34 to 44, column 7 lines 3 to 29) discloses (the references in parenthesis applying to this document):
  - 2.2 A hair clip comprising two combs (35,36) and at least one elastic member (13) suitable for resiliently bias the teeth (39) of the combs into an interleaved arrangement with one another, wherein at least selected teeth (39) are wider than the spaces between teeth with which such selected teeth are interleaved in use (figures 3, 8) and the teeth of each comb are shaped to fit partially into the spaces between the teeth of the other comb.(cf. claim 1)
  - 2.3 From the above it appears that the subject matter of the present independent claim 1 is known from D1 at least by implication and therefore said claim does not meet the requirement of the PCT concerning novelty.
- 3 **DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-8**
  - 3.1 Dependent claims 2-8 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT).
- 4 **INDEPENDENT CLAIM 9**
  - 4.1 The prior published documents, cited in the international search report, either taken individually or in combination do not disclose, suggest or reasonably lead

the person skilled in the art to consider the step of twisting the combs relatively to each other while inserting them into engagement, such that some of teeth of one comb overlay and other underlay the teeth of the other comb so as to clamp hair between the two combs in the known methods of fastening hair.

The person skilled in the art would not be able to combine all the features of the present independent claim and as such arrive at the claimed method without an inventive activity.

- 4.2 Dependent claims 10 and 11 are dependent on claim 9 and thus claims 9-11 satisfy the requirements of Article 33(2)(3) PCT.